

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02441 112032Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 SAB-02 /051 W
-----086803 121127Z /17

R 111830Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6497
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2441

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

THE FOLLOWING SENT FROM ICA/PANAMA ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE
DATED 11 APRIL 1978 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY -- PANAMANIAN MEDIA EVENING OF APRIL 10 AND
MORNING OF APRIL 11 ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC, COUNSELING
MODERATION AND GIVING HEAVY PLAN TO U.S. PRESS AND SENATORIAL
SUPPORT OF PANAMANIAN OBJECTIONS TO DECONCINI RESERVATION TO
NEUTRALITY TREATY.

2. PRO-GOP CRITICA AND MATUTINO EDITS CITE U.S. PRESS REACTION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02441 112032Z

TO DECONCINI RESERVATION, ESPECIALLY WASHINGTON POST EDIT OF
APRIL 9. MATUTINO EDIT ALSO CITES U.S. PRASIE FOR PANAMANIAN
CALM IN FACE OF PROVOCATION, WHICH COULD HAVE CAUSED VIOLENCE,
AND CALLS SUCH "BALANCE" OF "INSUPERABLE VALUE" IN STRUGGLE FOR
JUSTICE.

3. MATUTINO LEADS FRONT PAGE WITH DIANA AROSEMENA DISPATCH ON

SEN. CHURCH STATEMENTS IN SENATE APRIL 10, HEADED, "SEN. CHURCH: U.S. HAS NEITHER WISH NOR RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN PANAMA; CLAIRFYING LANGUAGE FOR DECONCINI RESERVATION." CRITICA FRONT-PAGES EFE ITEM ON SAME SUBJECT, "SENATORS WANT TO BACK UP." SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA AND SISTER ENGLISH-LANGUAGE STAR AND HERALD USE AP STORIES ON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR RULING IN SUPREME COURT. ESTRELLA'S HEAD IS "OPPOSITION CALLS ON NEW RESOURCE," AND STAR AND HERALD'S "SOLONS DO NOT WANT CARTER TO SIGN PACTS."

4. ESTRELLA ALSO FRONT-PAGES AROSEMENA ITEM, CALLING CHURCH'S SPEECH "BRILLIANT," HEADED "SENATORS SUPPORTING TREATY MAY PRESENT CLARIFYING LANGUAGE TO RESOLUTION OF RATIFICATION; 'WE MUST REMOVE THAT WORD FROM OUR MINDS,' SAYS SPARKMAN OF INTERVENTIONISM."

5. COLUMNIST LUIS RESTREPO, WRITING IN MATUTINO, CRITICIZES UNIDENTIFIED "VOICES" WHICH CALL FOR "DRASTIC DECISIONS IN THE FACE OF THE RECENT IMPERIALISTIC MANEUVERS AGAINST THIS NATION." CERTAINLY NEITHER OWNERS OF THESE VOICES, SAYS RESTREPO, NOR THEIR FAMILIES, WILL BE IN FRONT LINE OF ANY BLOODY CONFLICT THAT MIGHT COME ABOUT AS RESULT OF THEIR IMPRUDENT CRIES FOR ACTION. "THE REALITY IS THAT THE PEOPLE WILL NOT VACILLATE NOR BECOME FRIGHTENED NOR GIVE UP," CONTINUES RESTREPO, BUT VOICES WHICH RECOMMEND FOOLISH ACTION AT THIS POINT WILL NOT BE HEEDDED BY THE WORKERS, CAMPESINOS, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PANAMA 02441 112032Z

STUDENTS AND OTHERS WHO WOULD DEFEND THE NATION "WITH THEIR SWEAT, BLOOD AND PAIN."

6. THE MODERATE "MOYOLANDIA" COLUMN IN MATUTINO ALSO COUNSELS AGAINST "EITHER MEEKNESS OR ARROGANCE," SINCE "THERE MUST BE A SOLUTION" TO THE PROBLEM OF THE DECONCINI RESERVATION. "THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT (SIC) COULD BE REDUCED TO NOTHING," ASSERTS THE COLUMNIST, "IF FOR EXAMPLE PRES. CARTER WOULD PUT IN WRITING HIS INTERPRETATION OF IT IN THE SENSE THAT ARMED INTERVENTION OF THE U.S. IN PANAMA WOULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF THIS DID NOT CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY. THAT WOULD BE THE SAME AS SAYING NEVER, SINCE ANY KIND OF INTERVENTION WITHOUT PANAMA'S PRIOR CONSENT WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY."

7. MOYOLANDIA CONTINUES, "WE ARE... ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT THE AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED ARE UNACCEPTABLE. IT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT PANAMA CANNOT ACCEPT AN AMENDMENT THAT SAYS THAT THE U.S. UNILATERALLY CAN INTERVENE IN PANAMA. THAT VIOLATES THE VERY ESSENCE OF ALL OUR STRUGGLES. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND NEITHER THE U.S. NOR PANAMA CAN ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT ONE SENATOR, DECONCINI, COULD DESTROY 13 YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND 74 YEARS OF TENACIOUS

STRUGGLE."

8. CHANNEL 4 NEWSCAST APRIL 10 CARRIED INTERVIEW OF JOURNALIST CARL ROWAN WHO CONDUCTED INTERVIEW OF TORRIJOS OVER WEEKEND. ROWAN CALLED DECONCINI RESERVATION "IRRESPONSIBLE AND UN-NECESSARY," AND SAID IT SHOULD NOT CANCEL OUT 13 YEARS OF EFFORT BY BOTH NATIONS.

9. CHANNEL 4 EDIT APRIL 10 ALSO CALLED RESERVATION "IRRESPONSIBLE" AND A "FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER," WHICH DENIES THE U.S.' INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. BUT EDIT CONCLUDES THAT "THERE MAY BE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL," CITING PRES. CARTER'S STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. HAS NO RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN PANAMA, SEN. CHURCH'S PREDICTION OF A CLARIFICATION OF THE DECONCINI
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PANAMA 02441 112032Z

RESERVATION, AND U.S. PRESS REACTION TO THE RESERVATION. "A FORMULA MAY BE FOUND," THE EDIT CONCLUDED, "WHICH WOULD SAVE THE DIGNITY OF BOTH NATIONS... AND PROVIDE THE MUTUAL BENEFITS WHICH WOULD ACCRUE... INSTEAD OF THE CHAOS WHICH CAN EMERGE WHEN A NATION LOSES ALL HOPE".

10. NEWS DIRECTOR MARIO VELASQUEZ CHANNEL 2 COMMENTARY APRIL 10 QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM US PRESS OPINION, INCLUDING WASHINGTON POST APRIL 9. EDIT, AND MOST OF ROWAN CHICAGO SUN-TIMES STORY ON TORRIJOS INTERVIEW. VELASQUEZ CALLED ROWAN'S QUOTES OF TORRIJOS "POINTS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE... WHICH LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN AND CONTINUE TO BE FLEXIBLE..." PANAMANIAN SHOULD CONTINUE CALM, SENSIBLE, PATRIOTIC JUDGEMENT AND CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS AND RESERVATIONS ADDED TO TREATIES BY SENATE, BUT "TO DEMAND THE (PANAMANIAN) GOVERNMENT TO GO BEYOND THE POINT THEY HAVE ALREADY REACHED DOES NOT SEEM TO ME TO BE A DEMAND WHICH IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE NATION... NO ONE," CONCLUDED VELASQUEZ, "IN THE GOVERNMENT OR IN THE OPPOSITION, CAN MAKE AN EXCLUSIVE CLAIM TO PATRIOTISM... OR THE TRUTH." ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA02441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-0261
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780470/aaaachni.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 319af0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3009570
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTIONS THE FOLLOWING SENT FROM ICA/PANAMA ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE DATED 11 APRIL 1978
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO
TAGS: SOPN, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/319af0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014